a first computer code device configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user, and to encode and store the monitored data into a log file;

a second computer code device configured to receive the log file of the monitored data, to decode the stored encoded log file, to create a message of the monitored data, and to then communicate the message of the monitored data;

wherein the first computer code device includes a control code to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and

wherein the second computer code device includes a control code to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,018,619 to <u>Allard et al.</u> (herein "<u>Allard</u>").

Initially, applicant and applicants' representative wish to thank Examiners Zia and Tran for the interview granted on May 13, 2003. During that interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during that interview applicants' representative presented comments to the Examiners as to how the claims as currently written distinguished over the applied art. During the interview, the Examiners indicated that the claims could be clarified if amended to more clearly recite how the "unidirectional communication" is

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realized in the claimed invention. To promote prosecution, each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify that "unidirectional communication" as discussed in further detail below.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Allard in detail, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 was previously amended to clarify that the communication operation is "by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is communicated". That feature is believed to distinguish over the teachings in Allard as Allard requires a bi-directional communication connection for a proper operation.

However, each of the independent claims is also amended by the present response to clarify how the "unidirectional communication" is realized.

Specifically, independent claim 1 now additionally recites that "the monitoring device includes a control to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated". That subject matter is described, as one non-limiting example, with respect to Figure 13 in the present specification and the corresponding description thereof. As noted in Figure 13 and the corresponding description in the present specification at page 21, line 19 et seq., a function startMonitoring is called on start-up of a target application MB. Thus, it is clear that with such an operation no input from a device to which a log of monitored data is to be communicated is needed to begin the monitoring operation. Such a feature stems from the fact that in the claims as currently written a unidirectional communication between a monitoring device and a device to receive monitored data can be established with respect to the monitoring, encoding, storing, and communicating operations. Stated another way, the above-noted amendment clarifies that the device that receives a log of the monitored data is

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not required to initiate or provide any feedback in operations of monitoring, encoding, and storing the monitored data, and then communicating a log of the monitored data. Each of the other independent claims 9, 17, and 25 is similarly amended as in independent claim 1 noted above.

Independent claim 1 is further amended to clarify that "the communicating device includes a control to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated". That is, according to that operation, the actual communicating of the data can take place automatically without requiring an input from the device that will ultimately receive the communicated data. That operation is also evident from, for example, Figures 16 and 17 in the present specification that clearly show how the log of the monitored data is sent automatically and without requiring any input or feedback from a device that is ultimately to receive the log of the monitored data. Each of independent claims 9, 17, and 25 is also amended similarly as in independent claim 1 noted above.

Such features as clarified in the claims set forth in operation and structure that clearly differs from the teachings in <u>Allard</u>.

The claims as currently written are directed to a system, method, or computer program product that includes an interface with a plurality of options to be selected by a user. The user's selection of those plurality of options is monitored, encoded, and stored into a log file, all without an input from a device that ultimately will receive the log file. A communicating device receives the log file of the monitored data, decodes the stored encoded log file, creates a message of the monitored data, and communicates that message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is communicated. That is, in the claimed invention the destination device to which the monitored data is to be communicated does not need to

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establish a prior connection to the communicating device, nor does that destination device need to provide any instructions for authorization of the monitoring, encoding, storing, or communicating operations.

The above-noted operations recited in the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the teachings in Allard.

Allard is directed to a method for tracking usage patterns of users of hyper-media systems such as on the World-Wide-Web (WWW). In order for the system of Allard to properly operate, a client system server (i.e. the destination device to which the tracked data is to be sent) must be connected at the time of an initial session beginning. That operation is evident for example in Figure 3 of Allard in which step 54 monitors a session beginning event, and when a session beginning event is detected, contact with a server is initiated in step 60. Then in step 64 the server (i.e. the destination device) must make an acknowledgment. Thus, in Allard before any monitoring operation can be executed, contact with a server must be initiated, and a server acknowledgment, i.e., an input from the destination device server, is then required. From such an operation it is clear that Allard requires a client system connected to a server destination device through a bi-directional communication connection and with a required input from the server destination device to even begin the monitoring operation.

The claims differ from such teachings in Allard as in the claims as currently written there is no bi-directional communication required, i.e. no input is needed from a destination server, to begin the monitoring operation or to communicate the message of the monitored data. That is, in the claims the monitoring starting and the communication of the message of the monitored data does not require input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and thus only a unidirectional is needed for those operations in the claims as currently written.

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In such ways, the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the teachings in Allard.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:

an interface of a target application, the interface comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;

a monitoring device configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user, and to encode and store the monitored data into a log file;

a communicating device configured to receive the log file of the monitored data, to decode the stored encoded log file, to create a message of the monitored data, and to then communicate the message of the monitored data;

wherein the monitoring device includes a control to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and

wherein the communicating device includes a control to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from [a] the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated.

9. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:

interface means of a target application means, the interface means for providing a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;

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monitoring means for monitoring data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface means by the user, and for encoding and storing the monitored data into a log file;

communicating means for receiving the log file of the monitored data, for decoding the stored encoded log file, for creating a message of the monitored data, and for communicating the message of the monitored data;

wherein the monitoring means includes a control to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and

wherein the communicating means includes a control to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from [a] the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated.

17. (Twice Amended) A method of monitoring usage of an interface of a target application, the interface including a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, comprising the steps of:

monitoring data of selecting the plurality of operations of the interface selected by the user;

generating a log file of the monitored data by encoding the monitored data and storing the encoded monitored data into the log file; and

creating a message of the monitored data by reading the encoded monitored data from the log file and decoding the encoded monitored data, and communicating the message of the monitored data;

wherein the monitoring includes a control operation to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and

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wherein the communicating includes a control operation to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from [a] the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated.

25. (Twice Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to monitor a user's usage of an interface of a target application, the interface comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, comprising:

a first computer code device configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user, and to encode and store the monitored data into a log file;

a second computer code device configured to receive the log file of the monitored data, to decode the stored encoded log file, to create a message of the monitored data, and to then communicate the message of the monitored data;

wherein the first computer code device includes a control code to automatically start the monitoring when the target application starts up, without an input from a device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated, and

wherein the second computer code device includes a control code to automatically communicate the message of the monitored data by a unidirectional communication without requiring input from [a] the device to which the message of the monitored data is to be communicated.--

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